



King County Latino youth attended the WSU 4-H teen conference

Overview

Latinos represent 7.4% of the King County population (U.S. Census Bureau: State and County Quick Facts, 2009) and are the most poorly represented ethnic group in terms of educational attainment. In Washington State, the Latino population between the ages of 8-19 is growing faster than any other group in the region. Despite the large number of high quality extracurricular programs, most Latino youth limit their participation due to lack of information, transportation, financial resources, and limited program availability. Consequently, the King County 4-H Youth Development program has had limited success reaching Latino youth.

With the fact that this nation has to keep new generations competitive and provide opportunities in the workforce, higher education institutions have to focus on broader and more creative ways to increase Latino recruitment to their institutions. Washington State University offers teens from across Washington to come together to attend the annual 4-H Teen Conference (TC) which happens the last week of June each summer.

The TC offers teens opportunities and activities in which they can explore college opportunities, promote positive adult and teen partnerships, increase life-skills for the future, and provide interactive and hands-on educational sessions and programs. The TC is a unique opportunity to embrace Latino students who can meet students from around the state, can explore careers, and can learn about college preparation. The 2009 TC emphasized minority outreach.

What's been done

In spring 2009 Highline School District provided the “Academia Para Padres” (Parent Academy) education with a focus on knowledge and an understanding of the school system in WA, and the importance of being involved in children’s education. They also provide youth programs which prepare students for college.

In partnership with the “Academia” WSU King County Extension has provided workshops in the areas of volunteerism, communication, and leadership, as well as in the development of positive relationships with parents. From the youth program, six students and one middle school teach who would act as chaperone for the group at the TC, were selected to receive half scholarships. Three other students were invited to attend the TC. Thirteen Latino students from the cities of Tukwila, Renton, Kent, Des Moines, and SW Seattle attended the 2009 Teen Conference.

Program Goals:

- Attend the 4-H Teen Conference and explore college and career opportunities for Latino Youth.
- Promote positive adult and teen partnerships through the planning and implementation of a new 4-H Leadership Latino Youth club in King County.



*King County Latino Youth attending the 4-H Teen Conference.
Photo: S. Morales*

KING COUNTY EXTENSION ~ ~ MID-YEAR REPORT ~ ~ JUNE 2009



*Youth attending the "Students of Color" workshop presented by Mario magana-4-H Staff from Oregon State University.
Photo: S. Morales*



*Youth attending the Interviewing Strategic workshop.
Photo: S. Morales*



*King County Latino youth meeting with other youth from Skagit County.
Photo: S. Morales*

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Before the TC, youth and parents were invited to attend two meetings located at Chinook Middle School in SeaTac and in the WSU Extension in Renton. They were informed about the Code of Conduct and other conference requirements. Parents expected their youth to learn the following from the conference: educational options, career opportunities, and leadership. Students attended the following workshops: (1) Students of Color, (2) Which Road You Will Take, (3) Interviewing Strategies, and (4) Your Voice, Your Choice.

2009 Program Accomplishments

Western Washington Area Health Education Center provided \$1,000, which covered ten half assistantships.

It was the first time that youth participated in the TC. They experienced different learning environments, WSU education and ways to fund it. They enjoyed sharing and making new friends, challenging activities, and learning from attending different workshops.

Two 4-H Teen Ambassadors met with a Latino student, provided her with an application, and encouraged her to apply to become a **Teen Ambassador** and represent King County.

The group will start a 4-H "Leadership Latino Youth Program" with focus on college education, technology, culture, and leadership skills. Youth committed to promote it, and recruited more youth in their communities. The chaperone expressed her interest to become a volunteer leader and invited many youth parents to participate actively in this new project.

Comments:

"I learned from the 'Students of Color' workshop. The speaker emphasized on the barriers that most of minority students face to go to college and how you can rid yourself of them. The dialogue between the instructors and students was engaging and productive."

~ ~ Manuel, youth participant

"It was my first conference and I enjoyed it very much! I learned to behave in the meetings and how to communicate with new friends."

~ ~ Gabriela, youth participant

"Thank you for providing us with the opportunity to attend the TC. WSU is a great campus and has inspired me to pursue my bachelor degree there."

~ ~ Pablo, youth participant

"It was my first conference. It was amazed! I learned to behave in the meetings and how to communicate with new friends."

~ ~ Gabriela, youth participant

"Thank you for providing us with the opportunity to attend the TC. WSU is a great campus and I would like to pursue my bachelor degree there."

~ ~ Pablo, youth participant